



An IOM Info Sheet is a document that provides a brief overview of an IOM project, key area of activity or policy. More info sheets can be found at: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

IOM is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951.

IOM is:

- 125 Members and 94 observers including 18 States and 76 global and regional IGOs and NGOs;
- More than 440 field locations;
- Over 6,600 staff working on more than 2,000 projects;
- US\$ 1 billion expenditures in 2008.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration;
- Advance understanding of migration issues;
- Encourage social and economic development through migration;
- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Current as of November 2008



Attentive to get details on country of resettlement, migrants go through a Cultural Orientation class.

## Cultural Orientation (CO) Programme in Kenya

### Summary

With support from receiving countries, MRF Nairobi facilitates cultural orientation and in some cases language training to migrants resettling to:

- Australia
- Canada
- United Kingdom

Upon request however, IOM can offer cultural orientation to migrants moving to other countries other than the countries specified above.

Cultural Orientation aims at facilitating the smooth and quick settlement of migrants, in order to lessen the pressure on the receiving country's governments to provide them with social services.

Although cultural orientation cannot cover everything a migrant needs to know about their resettlement in the host country, they have a chance to ask questions that relate to their individual situation, during the orientation sessions.

### Background

Cultural orientation is the education provided to migrants/newcomers in a different country to help them acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed in early resettlement. CO helps migrants acquire the information and skills necessary to gradually adapt to a new society and culture.

For anyone moving to a different country where life and culture is different from their own, CO is important to help them understand what to expect when they arrive in the country of resettlement. The primary purpose of the cultural orientation programme is to ensure a smooth integration into the country of resettlement by preparing the migrant for the initial period after their arrival in the host country.

CO presents migrants with tools to assist make their early days and months in their new home and life more manageable and to ease their entry into the new language and culture. CO describes in general the resettlement process beginning with a migrant's travel from her/his country. It presents the migrant with a realistic picture of the country they are going to and prepares them for the diversity in the other society.

IOM provides assistance to refugees who have been approved for resettlement abroad, to experts participating in regional or international technical cooperation activities, to self paying and sponsored migrants and insome cases to their dependants.

Cultural Orientation in IOM is divided into three Programmes:

- Canadian Cultural Orientation
- Cultural Orientation for the United Kingdom
- Australian Cultural Orientation

Cultural Orientation Provides Migrants with information they need to know regarding their country of destinations. Such information includes facts on the following:

- Weather and geography
- What to expect in the journey to the country of destination
- Rights and responsibility as well as the basic laws in the host country
- Potential culture shock
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Education and
- Transport services in the country of destination
- Necessary tools to deal with the initial integration concerns as well as different stages of cultural, social and economic adaptation.



Migrants take notes during a CO class

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